

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 501-9911	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, Item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/CH2004/000650	International filing date (day/month/year) 28/10/2004	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 29/10/2003
Applicant ALVIER AG PM-TECHNOLOGY		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 3 sheets.

It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

The international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

b. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

2. Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box II).

3. Unity of invention is lacking (see Box III).

4. With regard to the title,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. With regard to the drawings,

a. the figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 2

as suggested by the applicant.

as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention.

b. none of the figures is to be published with the abstract.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference see form PCT/ISA/220		FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below	
International application No. PCT/CH2004/000650	International filing date (day/month/year) 28.10.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 29.10.2003	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC B22F3/03			
Applicant ALVIER AG PM-TECHNOLOGY			

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- Box No. II Priority
- Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:	Authorized Officer
 European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016	Ceulemans, J Telephone No. +31 70 340-3157
	

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.
PCT/CH2004/000650

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 a sequence listing
 table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 in written format
 in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 contained in the international application as filed.
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

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**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or
industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-18
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-18
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-18
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V

**Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement**

Reference is made to the following document:

D1 : DE 90 12 752 U (MANNESMANN) 22 November 1990 (1990-11-22)

The document D1 is regarded as being the closest prior art to the subject-matter of claim 1, and shows (the references in parentheses applying to this document) a device for use in a press for producing stepped, dimensionally stable pressed articles.

The device (see page 4, 1st sentence - page 6, 1st paragraph and the figure) comprises a base plate (no.1), a lower coupling plate (no. 2), an upper coupling plate (no. 3) and a die supporting plate (no.5, inbetween 2 and 3).

The device of the present application differs from the one of D1 in that it has lower and upper tool receiving units which comprise and move as a whole with corresponding tool supports. At least one of the tool receiving units comprises several tool supports which are each provided with an actuating device.

The subject-matter of claim 1 is therefore new (Article 33(2) PCT).

The problem to be solved by the present invention may be regarded as providing a pressing device/tool which allows for a modular and flexible use with complicated workpieces while at the same time allowing for a homogeneous compression level throughout the workpiece.

The solution to this problem proposed in claim 1 of the present application is considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) for the following reasons.

Although the principle of generating homogeneous compression levels in stepped workpieces by means of staged die parts is known in the art (see e.g. documents D1, D2), the combination into a single modular unit (albeit upper or lower) is not known from the prior art. The modular unit allows for a general, synchronised movement of all the corresponding tool supports as one, while the individual actuating devices allow for a local adjustment of the compression level. This allows for a relatively simple press construction

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING
AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.
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which on top is flexible in its use for the calibration of different complicated workpieces.

Claims 2-18 are dependent on claim 1 and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 B22F3/03

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 B22F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	DE 90 12 752 U (MANNESMANN) 22 November 1990 (1990-11-22) claim 1	1-18
A	DE 19 38 490 A (METAFRAM LA METALLURG FRANCAIS) 9 April 1970 (1970-04-09) claims 1-6	1-18
A	DE 19 20 969 A (BUSSMANN KG WILHELM; MANNESMANN PULVERMETALL) 5 November 1970 (1970-11-05) claims 1-7	1-7
L, A	EP 0 528 761 A (ALVIER WERKZEUGBAU AG; WERKZEUGBAU ALVIER AG) 24 February 1993 (1993-02-24) claims	1-18

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority, claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

19 August 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

26/08/2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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Authorized officer

Ceuilemans, J.

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
DE 9012752	U	22-11-1990	DE	9012752 U1		22-11-1990
DE 1938490	A	09-04-1970	DE ES FR JP US	1938490 A1 368094 A1 1581771 A 50013983 B 3611498 A		09-04-1970 01-05-1971 19-09-1969 23-05-1975 12-10-1971
DE 1920969	A	05-11-1970	DE CH FR GB JP US	1920969 A1 503534 A 2039424 A5 1294078 A 50021018 B 3771930 A		05-11-1970 28-02-1971 15-01-1971 25-10-1972 19-07-1975 13-11-1973
EP 0528761	A	24-02-1993	AT DE EP ES JP US	146709 T 59207753 D1 0528761 A1 2098479 T3 5195011 A 5366363 A		15-01-1997 06-02-1997 24-02-1993 01-05-1997 03-08-1993 22-11-1994